

# DR. LOOSEN

## 2008 ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN RIESLING SPÄTLESE



*The Ürziger Würzgarten vineyard*

### THE DR. LOOSEN ESTATE

The Dr. Loosen estate has been in the same family for over 200 years. When Ernst Loosen assumed ownership in 1988, he realized that, with ungrafted vines averaging 60 years old in some of Germany's best-rated vineyards, he had the raw materials to create stunningly intense, world-class wines. To achieve that, Ernst dramatically restricts crop size, uses only organic fertilization, insists on very strict fruit selection, and employs gentle cellar practices to allow the wine to develop its full potential with a minimum of handling.

### THE MOSEL REGION

The Mosel's steep, south-facing slopes create the perfect climate for Riesling, giving the vines ideal exposure to the sun. Generally cool conditions allow the grapes to ripen slowly while retaining bright acidity. Rocky outcroppings and stony soil reflect sunlight and hold in heat, creating very warm microclimates in the best sites and helping to ensure excellent ripeness. Thin topsoil forces the vines to dig deep for water and nutrients, producing vibrant wines that capture the strong minerality of the soil.

Dr. Loosen's single-vineyard vines average 70 years old, all on original rootstock (phylloxera can't survive in the Mosel, so ungrafted vines are allowed here). Old vines produce naturally lower yields, resulting in higher concentration and richness.



### THE ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN VINEYARD

*(The Spice Garden of Ürzig)*

The weathered red volcanic and slate soils of the Ürziger Würzgarten (pronounced ERTS-iger VERTS-garten) vineyard make it unique on the Mosel. It is an insanely steep site that yields wines with an exotic, spicy aroma and a mesmerizing earthiness. There is no other vineyard in the Mosel valley that produces wines so bursting with tropical fruit flavors. The Dr. Loosen estate's oldest vines (up to 120 years old) are found here.

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This wine, from a truly "grand cru" vineyard, showcases the vineyard's typically juicy and precocious fruit, with rich mouth feel, zippy acidity and a lingering finish. "Spätlese" ("late-picked") means that the grapes get a week or two of

extra hang time for higher ripeness and deeper flavors than a Kabinett. This is a wonderful wine for richer foods. Its low alcohol makes it especially good with spicy Asian/fusion cuisine.

### PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

#### [94] *Wine Advocate*

"For a wafting sense of delicacy and for sheer elegance, it's hard to beat Loosen's 2008 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese... This is like a complex, prismatic cloud descending on your palate and saturating your senses...a little marvel of balance..."

#### [91] *Wine Spectator*

"Plenty of lily, freesia and orange aromas and flavors here, buoyed by the bright acidity. It's delicate and filigree, with a lingering, mouthwatering finish."

#### [91] *Wine & Spirits*

"Floral and perfumed, this shows the concentrated ripeness typical of the site while remaining deftly poised..." **Best Buy**

### ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- Man of the Year 2005, *Decanter*
- White Wine Maker of the Year 2005, *Wine International*
- World's 50 Most Influential Winemakers, *Wine & Spirits*
- Germany's Winemaker of the Year 2001, *Gault Millau*